

Borough of  
otherwise



Bunhebed  
Launceston

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1964

Health Area Office,  
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1964

Health Area Office,  
Launceston,  
Cornwall

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29172354>

BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1964

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -  
Councillor F.JORDAN  
Councillor C.J.MOORE (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs.J.C.HICKS (Vice-Chairman)  
Alderman W.F.HENDER  
Councillor S.G.ADAMS  
Councillor E.HORE  
Councillor G.S.BRAY  
Councillor H.C.GOLDING

- - - - -

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health :

W.PATERSON, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health :   Launceston Rural District Council  
                                  Bude/Stratton Urban District Council  
                                  Stratton Rural District Council  
                                  Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council  
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

J.G.HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.

W.L.JUDD, M.A.P.H.I.

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2182
Population	4550
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1580
Rateable value, 1964	£161,412
Product of ld. rate	£642

## LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	63	37	26	14.725
Illegitimate	4	2	2	
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	1	1	-	14.71 per 1,000 total births
<u>DEATHS</u> (all causes)	70	42	28	15.384

Puerperal and post-abortion  
sepsis Nil  
Other Puerperal causes Nil

## INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

	1	-	1	14.92
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	1	5	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		N I L		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		N I L		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		N I L		

Health Area Office,  
Launceston.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the  
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964.

The vital statistics show that deaths during the year were eleven fewer than in the previous year, while births increased by five. The adverse balance of deaths over births continued, but the estimated mid-year population figure showed an increase of 40 - 4550 compared with 4510 in 1963. One stillbirth and one infant death were recorded. Heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system and cancer, in that order, were once more at the head of the list of causes of death, although the number of deaths from cancer was fewer than for some years.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low, apart from a small outbreak of measles concentrated in May and June. No cases of diphtheria and none of poliomyelitis were recorded.

During the year, the first part of the Tower Street/Northgate Street Redevelopment Scheme was completed. These twelve flats, whose name, New Northernhay, maintains a link with the past, not only provide satisfactory living accommodation, but fit well into the difficult contours of this old part of Launceston, and form a pleasing replacement for the picturesque, but sadly aged, properties which formerly occupied the area. By the end of the year, tenders were accepted for the development of a further part of the scheme.

Meat inspection continued to be an important part of the duties of your Public Health Department, 100% inspection being achieved in the early part of the year, and maintained.

I must express my thanks to Mr. G.E.Gifford, the Council's Chief Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our work together and in the preparation of this report. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Judd, the Additional Public Health Inspectors, have performed most valuable work. The Council's other departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health



AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1964 to be 4,550, an increase of 40 on the previous year. The "natural" increase in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1964 there were 3 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 70 compared with 81 in 1963. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population was 15.384 compared with 17.96 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1960	73	38	35	15.63
1961	82	41	41	18.55
1962	77	37	40	17.07
1963	81	39	42	17.96
1964	70	42	28	15.384

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area comparability factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.60 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 9.23 which may be compared with that of 11.3 (provisional) for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 67 compared with 62 in 1963. The rate per thousand of the population was 14.725. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.09) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 16.05 for this Borough compares with 18.4 (provisional) for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - The number of stillbirths during 1964 was one.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There were four illegitimate births assigned to the Borough during the year, compared with 2 in 1963.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - There was one infant death in 1964.

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
F	2 months	Congenital heart defect



NOTE :

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	-	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	7	20
18. Coronary disease, angina	8	8	16
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	3	4
20. Other heart disease	2	-	2
21. Other circulatory disease	-	1	1
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	-	1
24. Bronchitis	-	1	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	4	10
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34. All other accidents	2	1	3
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	42	28	70

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

### County Council Services.

- I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
  - (b) Health Visiting. Health Visitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine the work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as school nurses.
  - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
  - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
  - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and for poliomyelitis vaccination, are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.
  - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
  - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utilising sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.

(h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, and health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

(i) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Mental Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils  
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils  
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils  
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education  
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-  
Dental Clinic by appointment  
Speech Therapy, by appointment  
Child Guidance Clinic, twice monthly at Launceston Clinic.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

#### Hospital Services.

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy and Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.



An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held in Launceston each week.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

The Borough of Launceston comes within the area served by the East Cornwall Water Board. The water, from an upland surface gathering ground, is soft and slightly acid, and the average daily requirement of 200,000 gallons is adequately met.

Out of a total of 1,540 dwellings with a population of 4,550 persons, 1,532 dwellings and 4,518 persons are supplied with water from public water mains.

No stand pipes are used in the Borough.

SAMPLING

The following is a summary of reports of water samples taken in the area :-

Public Supplies

I By East Cornwall Water Board

(a) Untreated Water

Chemical Samples : No reports received

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli.</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
25	8	6

Note: Of the samples containing Coliform Organisms Type 1 (faecal), the highest counts were in the month of October.

(b) Treated Water

Chemical Samples : One sample taken 12.11.64 - Summary as follows:-

pH - 6.2

Total Hardness - 17

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals. It has, however, a faintly acid reaction due to its content of free carbon dioxide with low carbonate alkalinity and will therefore tend to show corrosive action on metals. The



water is soft in character and has a fairly low content of mineral and saline constituents. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality. These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for domestic uses and drinking."

Bacteriological Samples

<u>No. of Samples</u> <u>taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u> <u>containing</u> <u>Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u> <u>containing</u> <u>Coliform Bacilli</u> <u>Type 1 (faecal)</u>
40	3	3

Note : The three samples containing Coliform Organisms were taken from newly laid mains prior to their being brought into service. No Coliform Organisms were present in any normal samples taken from the distribution system.

II By Health Department, Launceston Borough Council (from distribution system - treated water)

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples</u> <u>taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u> <u>containing</u> <u>Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u> <u>containing</u> <u>Coliform Bacilli</u> <u>Type 1 (faecal)</u>
12	2	1

Note: Both samples containing Coliform Bacilli were taken in October, the month when samples of untreated water taken by the East Cornwall Water Board were also reported as containing Coliform organisms.

It is the routine practice of your Health Department to send a copy of each bacteriological report on these samples, to the Chief Engineer, East Cornwall Water Board, for his information.

Private Supplies

- (a) Complaints were investigated concerning the quality of water from a domestic well serving two adjoining properties. Separate pumps were used by each premises. The water drawn by one house appeared quite different in character from that drawn by the other, whose occupants had no complaint.

Bacteriological analysis showed that no Coliform Organisms were present, but a chemical sample showed an unusually high quantity of iron in solution, i.e. 4.5 parts per million. The Public Analyst reported that the water contained dissolved iron in proportions sufficiently great to cause the water to be so unpleasant to drink as to render it unsuitable for use as a domestic supply. It was considered, in view of this report, that, as the pump producing the water complained of was old, it might be the source of the dissolved iron. The owner was requested to have the pump overhauled and there were no further complaints.

- (b) Two samples of water from a deep bore serving a local food producing industry were taken for bacteriological analysis. One sample showed a count of 7 Coliform Bacilli (Non-faecal type). The bore is not at present being used.

#### SWIMMING BATHS

The swimming bath at Coronation Park is of the open air type. It has a capacity of approximately 100,000 gallons of water which is filtered by the circulating method and chlorinated by an automatic dosing plant.

Six samples of water were taken for bacteriological analysis. Two of these samples, taken in June, contained small numbers of coliform organisms and chlorination was stepped up accordingly.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, whereby surface water is excluded from the foul sewers. Only seven properties remain which still use conservancy methods.

There are two sewage disposal works, a small one at Scarne built by the Army Authorities during the war and modernised in 1959, and a much larger one at St. Leonards which has functioned in its new form since April, 1963 following complete reconstruction and enlargement.

#### DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified.

#### DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required. Protective spraying against cluster fly in roof spaces of houses known to be recurrently infested has again given good results.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi-weekly collections are made of household refuse and weekly collections made of refuse and paper from trade premises. It has not been possible to dispose of any waste paper during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Only one out of the three public conveniences is without washing facilities and these will be provided in 1965.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The main requirements of this Act came into force on 1st August, 1964. The Act deals with the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in these premises. The registration of all premises has been completed and their inspection is proceeding.

RODENT CONTROL

- 11 -

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property				Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses Including Council	All other Including Business Premises	Totals of Cols. (1), (2) and (3)	
No. of Properties in Local Authority District	9	1540	609	2158	34
Properties Inspected following Notifica-tion	2	8	6	16	1
Infestation of Properties by :-					
COMMON RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	2	7	6	15	1
SHIP RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSE MOUSE Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	1	-	1	1
Properties Inspected in course of Survey under the Act :-	7	40	98	145	7
No. of such properties found to be infested by :-					
COMMON RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	2	5	5	12	-
SHIP RAT Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSE MOUSE Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
Properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	-	-	-	-
No. of Infested Properties	4	13	11	28	1
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	N I L				

POISONS USED :- Sorex 13 lbs. 4 ozs. Zinc Phosphide 10 ozs.



HOUSING

1.	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	4550
2.	(a) Total number of permanent houses at 31st December, 1964	...	...	...	...	1540
	(b) Total number of permanent houses owned by local authority at 31st December, 1964	...				299
3.	(a) New Houses erected -					
	(i) by local authority	...	...	...	...	12
	(ii) by private enterprise	...	...	...		11
	(b) Number of applicants on housing list at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	138
4.	Number of houses specially provided for, and occupied by, people of pensionable age -					
	(a) Receiving contribution from County Council for Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
5.	Houses demolished -					
	(a) in clearance areas -					
	(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	...				Nil
	(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
	(b) not in clearance areas -					
	(i) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	3
	(ii) Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health					Nil
	(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts					Nil
	(iv) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders					Nil

6. Unfit houses closed -

(a) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Under Section 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

7. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which  
defects were remedied -

					<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(a) after informal action by local authority	...	...	...	...	8	-
(b) after formal notice under -						
(i) Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	2	-
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-	-
(c) under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-	-

8. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing  
Act, 1957) -

(a) Retained for temporary accommodation -						
(i) under Section 48	...	...	...	...		Nil
(ii) under Section 17(2)	...	...	...	...		Nil
(iii) under Section 46	...	...	...	...		Nil
(b) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	...	...	...	...		Nil

9. Purchase of houses by agreement -

Houses in clearance area other than those included  
in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory  
purchase orders, purchased during the year.

5



10. Housing Acts 1949 - 1964.

Improvement Grants -

(a) Discretionary -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	Nil
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	Nil
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	Nil
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Standard -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	9
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	9
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	£1325 (Max.grant permitted)
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	£1930 (15 dwellings)

Note - 2 grants approved to 31st December, 1964 were unpaid at that date.  
 Number of applications for standard grants to 31st December, 1964 total 54. Two applications for grant were withdrawn after approval.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Butchers	11	13	4	4
Small Goods Factories	2	19	1	1
Bakehouses	1	3	-	-
Bakers' Shops	3	19	-	-
Cafes and Hotels	11	28	4	4
Dairies	5	24	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	1	3	-	-
Fish and Chip Shops	2	12	-	-
Greengrocers	5	4	-	-
Grocers	16	16	2	2
Poulterers	3	4	-	-
Slaughterhouses	2	270	2	2
School Meals Kitchens	4	4	-	-
Hospital Kitchens	2	4	-	-
Fresh Fish Shops	1	2	-	-

(ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1959.

Premises registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	27
Premises registered for the Sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	8
Premises registered as Dairies	5

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	12
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	24
Ice Cream Premises	40
Dairies	24

Thirteen informal notices were served for minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Contamination of Foodstuff

Four complaints of alleged contamination of foodstuffs were received from the public and investigations were carried out as follows :-

(1) In January, cockles contained in a hermetically sealed jar were stated by the purchaser to be so badly discoloured as to be unfit for human consumption. The cockles were forwarded to the Public Analyst's Laboratory, and were reported upon as "sound and free from evidence of decomposition".

(2) In June, the Manager of a local grocer's shop reported a marked green discolouration in open cooked hams which had been supplied to him by a large and highly reputable firm of food producers. Apart from the colour there was no evidence of unsoundness otherwise. Samples of the ham were immediately forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory which reported that no pathogenic organisms were isolated. The remainder of the consignment was withdrawn from sale due to its unpalatable appearance.

(3) In August a complaint was received that locally purchased pork sausages had a peculiar taste and an unusual colour. A sample of these sausages was sent to the Public Analyst who reported "No evidence of the presence of any unusual or harmful chemical substance or of the presence of any prohibited colouring matter".

(4) In the same month a complaint was received that a slice of bread and butter from a loaf purchased at a local shop had been found to contain a piece of glass. The glass was only discovered when the bread was being actually eaten. Investigations from the shop from which the loaf was purchased revealed that it was manufactured at a bakery some distance from Launceston.

The Manager of this bakery was informed of the complaint, visited Launceston, and stated that he was at a loss to understand how glass could possibly have been found in one of his products. He stated that his premises were completely modern, there was no glass on the premises which might give rise to such a contamination, all flour was screened and the premises were frequently inspected.

A report was requested from the Chief Public Health Inspector of the area concerned who confirmed the Manager's statement. He had, himself, carried out an inspection in an attempt to establish how the contamination could have occurred. He could give no explanation.

An extremely serious view was taken of the incident by the Public Health Committee and the Council later decided that whilst legal proceedings would not be instituted, the views of the Council on this matter should be officially conveyed to the Management of the firm concerned.

- - - - -

In December it was considered necessary to require a local vendor of pet meat sold in hermetically sealed packages to discontinue the sale of this meat since the possibility arose of cross contamination with vegetables etc., which were being sold within the same curtilage.



(iv) Educational Activities

Posters and leaflets supplied by the Central Office of Information were issued to establishments from time to time and advice was given wherever possible.

(v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat is sent to two processing plants, one at Davidstow and the other at Southampton, where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertiliser and other products. Condemned canned foods are dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960, require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised, and all knacker meat to be stained and sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. It was felt that the somewhat detailed requirements of these regulations were not fully understood at a local abattoir. A letter was therefore sent in April defining exactly the authorised places to which "unsterilised" meat "unfit for human consumption" may be removed and it was requested that the matter be drawn to the attention of all concerned in the establishment.

(vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments

No large consignment of food has necessitated special examination or large scale condemnation, with the exception of two business premises in which refrigerating machinery broke down necessitating the condemnation of the entire stock held in the refrigerating chambers.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1952

No ice cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Forty-four samples of ice cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Thirty-two samples were classified as Provisional Grade 1, eleven as Provisional Grade 2 one as Provisional Grade 3 and none as Provisional Grade 4. It is desirable that 80% of samples should be classified in Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3, none should fall into Grade 4. The results obtained will be seen to be satisfactory. No soft ice cream extruding machines have yet been introduced in the Borough.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 - 1956

Frequent inspections of all food establishments in the Borough were carried out during the year.

(ix) Milk and Cream

There are five registered dairies in the Borough. Two of these retail milk and the remaining three are registered in order that they may sell loose cream.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963

Under these regulations the designation Tuberculin Tested Milk was discontinued as from October, 1963. A period of three months was given in which to effect alterations in the labelling of bottles, caps, etc. Tuberculin Tested Milk is now designated as "Untreated".

Information was received from the County Medical Officer that two samples of Untreated Milk and sixteen samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken during the year and were reported on as satisfactory.

The following samples of milk were taken by this Department during the year :-

Untreated Milk

Passed Methylene  
Blue Test

5

Failed Methylene  
Blue Test

1

Passed Biological Test  
(i.e. for T.B.)

2

Failed Biological Test

-

Pasteurised

Two samples of Pasteurised Milk out of twenty-five passed the Methylene Blue test and all twenty-five of these samples passed the Phosphatase tests.

Brucella Abortus Ring Test

Two samples of Untreated Milk, which were submitted to the test now being performed to detect the organism causing undulant fever, were reported as negative.

(x) Unsound Food

Eighteen visits were made in order to condemn unsound foodstuffs.

(xi) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

Since February 1964 a system of 100% meat inspection has been maintained locally.

There was a decrease of 15,022 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1964 indicating a fall of 18.6% compared with the 1963 figure and representing a total kill of 80,572 animals made up as follows :-

Bovines	5107 decreased by 2027 or 28%
Calves	2244 decreased by 1316 or 36.9%
Sheep	49885 decreased by 9267 or 18.5%
Pigs	23336 decreased by 2412 or 9.3%
<hr/>	
	80572 decreased by 15022 or 18.6%
<hr/>	

#### Cysticercus Bovis

There were four cases of infestation by *Cysticercus Bovis* detected during 1964, as against eleven in 1963. This parasite, developmental stage of the human tapeworm, was found in the cheek muscles of three steers and one heifer. This gives an incidence of 0.12% representing a decrease of 0.03% over the 1963 figure of 0.15%.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised, otherwise they are treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit. In all cases detected during the year, the lesion was in the head and no cysts were found in the carcasses. The organ or part affected is always condemned.

#### Tuberculosis

The incidence of Tuberculosis in cattle remains exceedingly low, only three cases affected by relatively minor lesions being found and no total condemnation of carcasses was carried out. The incidence of Tuberculosis in pigs is slightly higher this year, having risen from 1.28% in 1963 to 1.95% in 1964. The improved lighting at the Abattoir could be a factor which has helped in detecting more cases. The achievement of 100% meat inspection during most of the time is also an important factor.

#### Slaughtering Licences.

Twenty-nine licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

#### Diseases of Animals Act

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.



THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.64

<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>	<u>Building Operations Electrical Stations Institutions, etc.</u>
Agricultural Implement Repairs	3	-	
Bakehouses	1	-	
Brush Making	1	-	
Cabinet Making	1	-	
Cellulose Spraying	1	-	
Dresses and Millinery	-	2	
Egg Grading and Packing	1	-	
Electrical and Radio Repairs	2	-	
Gas Holder	1	-	
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1	
Joinery	6	1	
Laundry	2	-	
Letter Press Printing	2	-	
Monumental Mason	1	-	
Motor Body Painting	1	-	
Motor Body Builders	1	-	
Motor Vehicle Repairs	14	-	
Provender	1	-	
Photographer	1	-	
Poultry Slaughterhouses	3	-	
Radio Repairs	1	-	
Rope Splicing	-	1	
Sawmills	1	-	
Seed Dressing	1	-	
Sausage Manufacturers	3	-	
Television Repairs	2	-	
Upholstery	1	-	
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-	
Wool Grading	1	-	
Electrical Stations			1
Building Operations			6
Slaughterhouses			1
<hr/>			
	55	5	8
<hr/>			

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Acts, 1961 are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER  
DISEASES.

---

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus fever, typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, relapsing fever, plague, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, whooping cough, measles, acute encephalitis, meningococcal infection, anthrax, food poisoning, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, malaria, dysentery and puerperal pyrexia.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 44 primary vaccinations and 7 re-vaccinations were carried out.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

Sixty-three children received a complete course of immunisation against diphtheria during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in almost all cases. 141 children received a booster dose.

Measles. There was a small outbreak of measles during the year, seventy cases being notified. The highest incidence occurred in May and June. The infection does not appear to have been severe.

Whooping Cough One case of whooping cough was notified during the year.

Poliomyelitis No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 97 persons received a complete course of oral vaccination.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Investigations were carried out into a number of cases of gastrointestinal symptoms occurring at the beginning and end of the year. Organisms of the food poisoning groups were not isolated from specimens submitted for bacteriological examination, and the other investigations showed no connection between the symptoms and any articles of food. It appears that these cases were most probably examples of the condition which has been described in the past fifteen years or so, and which has been given the name "epidemic winter nausea and vomiting" or "winter vomiting disease". This condition appears to be an infection, transmitted directly from individual to individual, and probably due to a virus. The symptoms are of sudden onset, and may be severe and distressing, but they are short-lived, and recovery is rapid. The condition is at present the subject of research on a national basis.

Tuberculosis.

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.63	9	4	15	3
No. of cases notified				
during year	1	-	-	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	-	-
Cases Removed	1	1	4	-
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total on Register				
31.12.64	9	3	11	3
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician (Dr. Mellor) at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible Secondary School children was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1964, the death of one male due to cancer of the lung was recorded, out of a total of five cancer deaths. Since 1949, there have been 77 male and 92 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, thirteen male and seven female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung.

Cancer of the Cervix. This type of cancer affects women, and involves the neck of the womb. Of recent years, a method has been evolved for the early detection of the condition before it reaches the cancerous stage. This depends on certain special facilities, not yet readily available.

To enable an early detection service to be provided in the County as soon as these facilities can be provided, the County Council in November, on the advice of the County Medical Officer, resolved to amend its proposals under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to include provision for this service. Although this proposal has now received the approval of the Ministry of Health, at the time of preparing this report it has not been possible to make a start on the provision of the service.



TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1964.

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION (Estimated)</u>	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		<u>Number</u>	<u>Crude Rate</u>	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1960	4670	63	13.49	1	15.87	73	15.63
1961	4420	64	14.479	1	15.62	82	18.55
1962	4510	68	15.077	1	14.70	77	17.073
1963	4510	62	17.96	-	-	81	17.96
1964	4550	67	14.725	1	14.92	70	15.384

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apl. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	2	-	-	-	22	34	9	2	1	-	-	70
	2	-	-	-	22	34	9	2	2	-	-	71

TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
No. killed	3313	1794	2244	49835	23336	-
No. inspected	3305	1794	2236	49863	23310	-
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	5	16	28	113	24	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	260	735	21	3405	1057	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	8.0%	41.8%	2.19%	7.05%	8.23%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	1	-	-	455	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.06%	0.05%	-	-	1.95%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfit meat rejected	24 Tons 11 Cwts. 2 Qrs. 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.					



TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>COMPLIED WITH</u>
Defective Drainage	4	4
Defective Roofs	1	1
General Defects	7	7
Insanitary Conditions	8	8
Obstructed Drainage	2	2
Food Hygiene Regulations	13	13
Smoke Abatement Act	1	1
Total Number of Complaints Received	46	
Total Number of Visits paid	1289	

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the  
Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not inclu- ded in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	62	6	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	8	9	1	-
Total	68	75	7	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)	3	3	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	7	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of workers in August List required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
Wearing)Making apparel)etc.,	1	-	-	-	-	-





